



New Jersey Statewide Assessment Program Fact Sheet

What is PARCC? “The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) represents a fundamental shift in how we think about testing, state to state. PARCC is based on the core belief that assessment should not be a process to penalize educators and districts, but rather a tool for enhancing teaching and learning. The PARCC assessments in English Language Arts (ELA/Literacy) and Mathematics are carefully crafted to give teachers, schools, students and parents better and more useful information on how we’re preparing our kids for careers and college — and life.”
http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCCFactSheetandFAQsBackgrounder_FINAL.pdf

In 2015, New Jersey Public School students in grades three through eleven will take the PARCC Test. The Commissioner of Education shared some important information with school districts regarding these new assessments. A summary of that information is listed below:

- The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires schools with students in grades three through twelve to demonstrate Adequate Yearly Progress or AYP.
- A school must ensure that at least 95% of enrolled students in all subgroups have taken the state assessment.
- Federal funding of key education programs is dependent upon districts meeting that 95% participation rate.
- New Jersey Statute requires that the Commissioner of Education establish a program of standards for graduation from secondary school and shall include “assessment test[s] in reading, writing, and computational skills...” (NJSA 18:A7C-1).
- New Jersey Administrative Code provides, “[t]he Commissioner...may implement assessment of student achievement in any grade(s)...and the Commissioner shall define the scope and level of student achievement on Statewide assessments that demonstrate thorough understanding of the...CCCS at grades three through twelve” (NJAC 6A:8-4.1).
- NJAC also states that district boards of education “shall, according to a schedule prescribed by the Commissioner, administer the applicable Statewide assessments...[and]...all students at grade levels three through twelve, and at any other grades designated by the Commissioner...shall take appropriate Statewide assessments as scheduled.”
- In February 2014, the NJ State Board of Education passed a resolution confirming that districts are obligated to implement the CCCS.
- State law and regulations require all students to take State assessments.
- For 2014-2015, the PARCC will be the administered assessment in ELA and Math, and the NJ ASK in grades four and eight in Science.
- Schools are not required to provide an alternative educational program for students who do not participate in the statewide assessment.
- The PARCC will provide districts and schools with data to inform instructional decisions for each child and for the districts and schools as a whole.
- Based on the aforementioned information, we are administering the PARCC Assessment to all students. A student that chooses not to take the test will remain in the classroom during the testing period and must not present a distraction or interruption to the testing environment for other students.